

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2904

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6913

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PINT, EC

SUBJ: NIGERIAN REQUEST FOR INFO ON ECUADOREAN OFFICIAL

REF: LAGOS 9421

1. BY NOW YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED QUITO 6679, WHICH GIVES RUNDOWN OF EMBASSY VIEWS ON BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF JARRIN REPLACEMENT AS NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTER. IT IS A LONG, COMPLEX AND STILL-INCOMPLETE STORY, AND WE REGARD MOST OF WHAT IS EXPRESSED THEREIN AS TOO SENSITIVE TO BE SHARED WITH OFFICIALS OF AN OPEC MEMBER COUNTRY.

2. WE SUGGEST YOU ANSWER QUERY FROM LOLOMARI BY POINTING OUT THAT POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT OF JARRIN AND TWO OTHER MILITARY MEMBERS OF GOE CABINET HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BEGINNING MID-AUGUST. ISSUE HAD ARISEN, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN, BECAUSE OF ANNUAL ROUND OF PROMOTIONS TO FLAG AND GENERAL OFFICER RANK, WHICH REQUIRED SERIES OF CHANGES AMONG MILITARY PERSONNEL TO ACCOMMODATE NEWLY-PROMOTED OFFICERS AND THOSE SELECTED FOR PROMOTION. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN THAT OVERLY-LONG SERVICE BY ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY IN NON-MILITARY POSTS, EVEN THOSE OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY, COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON CAREER PROSPECTS.

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3. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT "TRANSFER" (NOT "REPLACEMENT") OF JARRIN WAS PRESENTED. CAN ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT HIS WORK WAS EULOGIZED BY GOE AND THAT HE RECEIVED IMPORTANT DECORATION AT COMPLETION OF HIS SERVICE AS MINISTER. HE IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE PROMOTION TO REAR ADMIRAL. ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE THAT JARRIN WAS ONE OF ONLY THREE MILITARY WHO HAD SERVED IN CABINET DURING ENTIRE TENURE OF PRESENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT. ONE OF TWO OTHERS, ARMY COLONEL WHO WAS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, LIKE JARRIN ALSO RECEIVED TRANSFER TO SENIOR ATTACHE POSITION. REMAINING ORIGINAL MILITARY MEMBER OF CABINET IS AIR FORCE COLONEL AND FLIGHT SURGEON WHO HAS HAD POLITICALLY UNREMARKABLE TENURE AS PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER AND WHO, BECAUSE OF HIS MEDICAL SPECIALIZATION, WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE A CANDIDATE FOR PROMOTION TO SENIOR COMMAND POSITION.

4. FINALLY, MIGHT BE NOTED THAT JARRIN AND GOE PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE STRESSED CONTINUITY OF ECUADOREAN OIL POLICY AND GOE COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAME.

5. WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO PROMOTE OFFICIAL ECUADOREAN VIEW THAT JARRIN REPLACEMENT ROUTINE IN NATURE AND ITS STRESS ON CONTINUITY OF POLICY. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL DISCOURAGE ANY CAMPAIGN BY OPEC AND/OR ITS MEMBERS TO CHIVVY THE GOE INTO JARRIN-LIKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ORTHODOXY.  
BREWSTER

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